

Inventory Number: **BA-3131**

CAPSULE SUMMARY

Gwynnbrook Four Square
3738 Gwynnbrook Avenue
Owings Mills
C. Mazurek
12/21/99

This structure is architecturally a Four Square, frame, pattern building, that is two stories tall with a full attic and basement. The interior has been slightly reconfigured over the years on the first floor, with the addition of a one story shed addition, however it still retains much of the original interior fabric, including the original newel posts, and decorative finials on the ceiling in the central hallway. The house is situated on a low hill overlooking the Western Maryland Railroad tracks, Gwynnbrook Avenue, and the historic Gwynnbrook brick house. The land on which these houses are located was surveyed by Thomas Wells on September, 15, 1732, and fifty acres were patented in 1734 after which he called it "Thomas Advancement". The Four Square dates from the early Twentieth century and historically has been a residence, a State Game Farm, and most recently the headquarters for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police in the Central Region. As a result of the need for more space, a new police facility is being built on this site and the Four Square structure is scheduled to be demolished.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. **BA-3131**

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Gwynnbrook State Game Farm Headquarters

other Gwynnbrook Four Square, Gwynnbrook Natural Resources Police Central Region Office.

2. Location

street & number 3738 Gwynnbrook Avenue

not for publication

city, town Owings Mills

vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maryland Department of Natural Resources

street & number Tawes State Office Building, 580 Taylor Avenue

telephone (410) 260-8192

city, town Annapolis

state and zip code Maryland 21401

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse

tax map and parcel 58/164

city, town

liber and folio 518/44

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Individually Listed in the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ HSR or Research report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Gwynnbrook four square located at 3738 Gwynnbrook Avenue in Owings Mills, Baltimore County, Maryland is two stories tall, with an attic and full basement, and is situated on a low hill overlooking the Western Maryland Railroad tracks, Gwynnbrook Avenue, and the historic Gwynnbrook brick house. The structure has all the typical characteristics of the early Twentieth century architectural style known as the Four Square, specifically the overall design of the exterior is balanced with all four sides of the house approximately of the same length, 33 feet, thus comprising a simple square.

Architectural elements are unified with doors and windows placed across from each other on opposite sides. On the north and south facades there are two 1/1 wood sash windows on the first floor, with two more windows placed directly over these on the second floor. The east facade has two 1/1 wood sash windows, with a front door and two sidelights centered between these, on the first floor. On the second floor there are three 1/1 wood sash windows placed directly above these. This facade also has a wood frame front porch resting on brick piers with four columns supporting the roof of the porch. The west facade is slightly different than the east in that there is a one story shed roofed porch to the left side of the structure, that was obviously a later addition due to the remnants of the previous exterior windows and siding still evident on the inside wall. The shed addition has two windows, one a 2/2 sash and the other a typical 1/1 wood sash, and a wooden back door. The windows on the original portion of the facade are 1/1 wood sash windows on the first floor, and three 1/1 wood sash windows directly above on the second floor. The roof of the house is pyramidal, covered with asphalt roof shingles, with two large dormers on both the north and south sides, and a small chimney on the southern end. Sheathing on the entire house is wood clapboard and the foundation is constructed of un-coursed fieldstone.

The interior of the Four Square has an atypical layout for the style on the first floor with unequal room dimensions, however the second floor layout is divided into equal spaces. The first floor may have been reconfigured to accommodate the construction of the west facade addition. On this floor there are four rooms and a central hallway, with the rear room bordering the addition more or less "L"- shaped and the other three rooms square shaped. Decorative features of the central hallway include the original wooden newel post and decorative finials on the ceiling above the banister. The second floor has four squared rooms, and a central hallway with a bathroom located at the western end of the passage. At the eastern end of the hall is access to the attic space. Small closets have been added in each of the corners of the rooms. The interior trim throughout the house is minimal.

On this hillside location mature trees surround the entire Gwynnbrook Four Square, and extensive new flower beds and a pond have been installed on the north side of the lawn.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, and a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, discuss evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual).

The Gwynnbrook Four Square is significant for its location next to the historic Gwynnbrook (brick house), it's architectural style, as well as for its usage by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police as the Central Regional Headquarters.

The land on which this Four Square structure is located was surveyed by Thomas Wells on September 15, 1732 and fifty acres were patented in 1734 after which he called it "Thomas Advancement". The specific construction dates for the dwelling called Gwynnbrook (brick house), next to the Four Square, are inconclusive; however it appears to date from the late 18th century to the early 19th century. The main block of this brick house is two stories tall, three bays wide, one bay deep, with a Flemish bond design. A 19th century addition on the rear of the structure is wood frame with German lap siding. The historic brick house has been restored by Bob Albiol, and is currently being rented out through a long term lease agreement with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

The architectural style of the Four Square was immensely popular during the early part of the Twentieth century. The main advantage of the style was its spacious design plan, which used space efficiently, and that design specifications could be ordered through the mail, thus eliminating the added expense of hiring an architect. Many examples of the Four Square style are scattered throughout Maryland.

The State of Maryland bought the property in 1919 from the Doefield family for usage as the Gwynnbrook State Game Farm. Over the years more property was acquired by the State for the Game Farm, so that the actual acreage of Gwynnbrook now numbers over 297 acres. The structure is now used as the headquarters of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police for the Central Region, however because of it's deteriorating condition, lack of space, and the planned construction of a new office building, this structure is slated for demolition.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

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Name _____
Continuation Sheet
Number 8 Page 2

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture/Landscape Architecture/and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building(s)

Historic Environment : Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Residence, State Game Warden's Headquarters

Known Design Source: Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 297 acres more or less

Quadrangle name Reisterstown USGS Map Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The general boundaries of the Gwynnbrook Property, comprising 297 acres, are as follows: it is divided by the Western Maryland Railroad line, and Mills Boulevard from north to south and Gwynnbrook Avenue from west to east. Bordering lands are the Owings Mills Commerce Center to the south, Vet Mills to the north, and the Associated Jewish Charities Property to the east, and a housing development to the west.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Charlie Mazurek, Historic Sites Surveyor

Organization MD Department of Natural Resources

date 7/15/99

Street & number Tawes State Office Building, 580 Taylor Avenue

telephone (410) 260-8192

City or town Annapolis

state and zip code MD 21401

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2 023
410-514-7646

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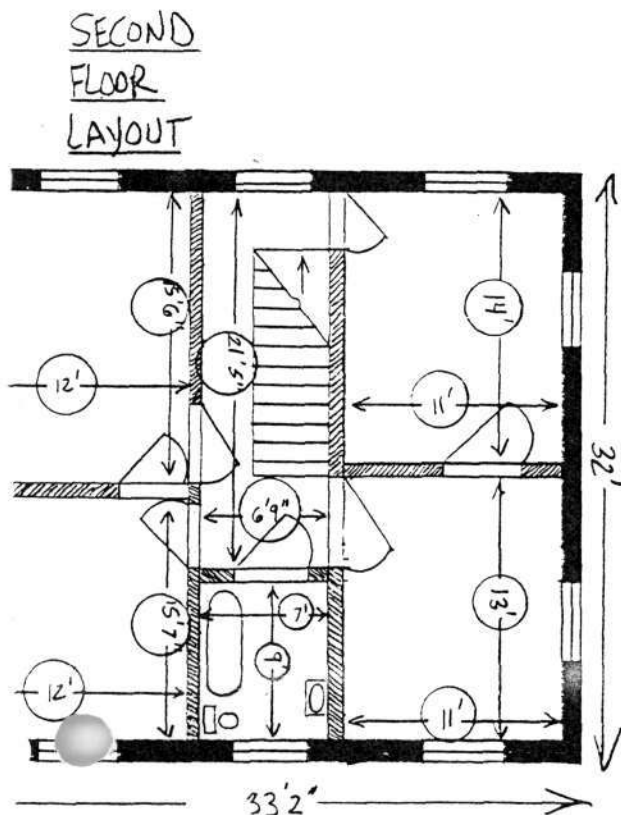
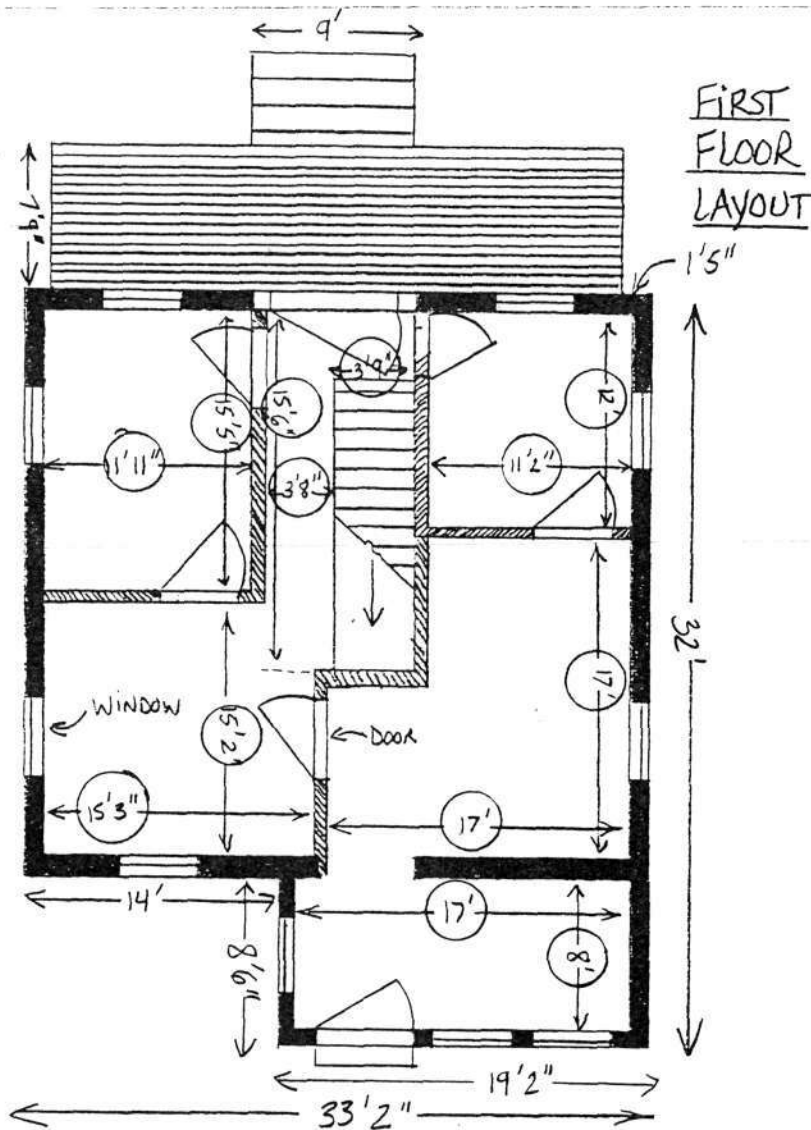
BA-3131

GWYNNBROOK FOUR-SQUARE, CENTRAL REGION OFFICE - AREA 5, N.R.P.
BALTIMORE CO., MARYLAND; GWYNNBROOK W.M.A.

DRAWN ON 7/8/99 BY C. MAZUREK

3/32 SCALE

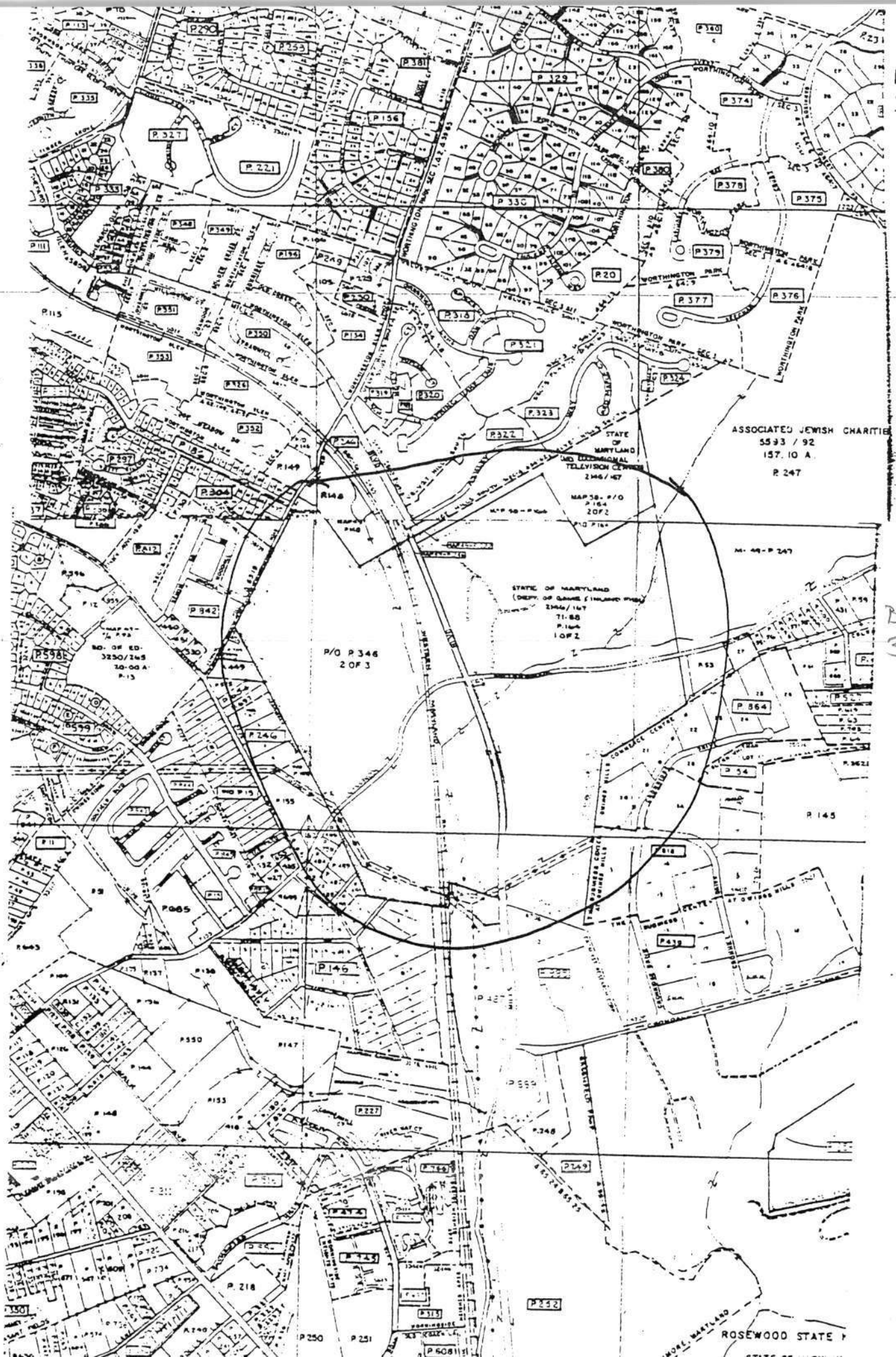
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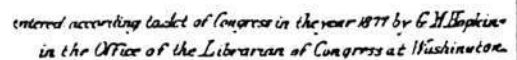


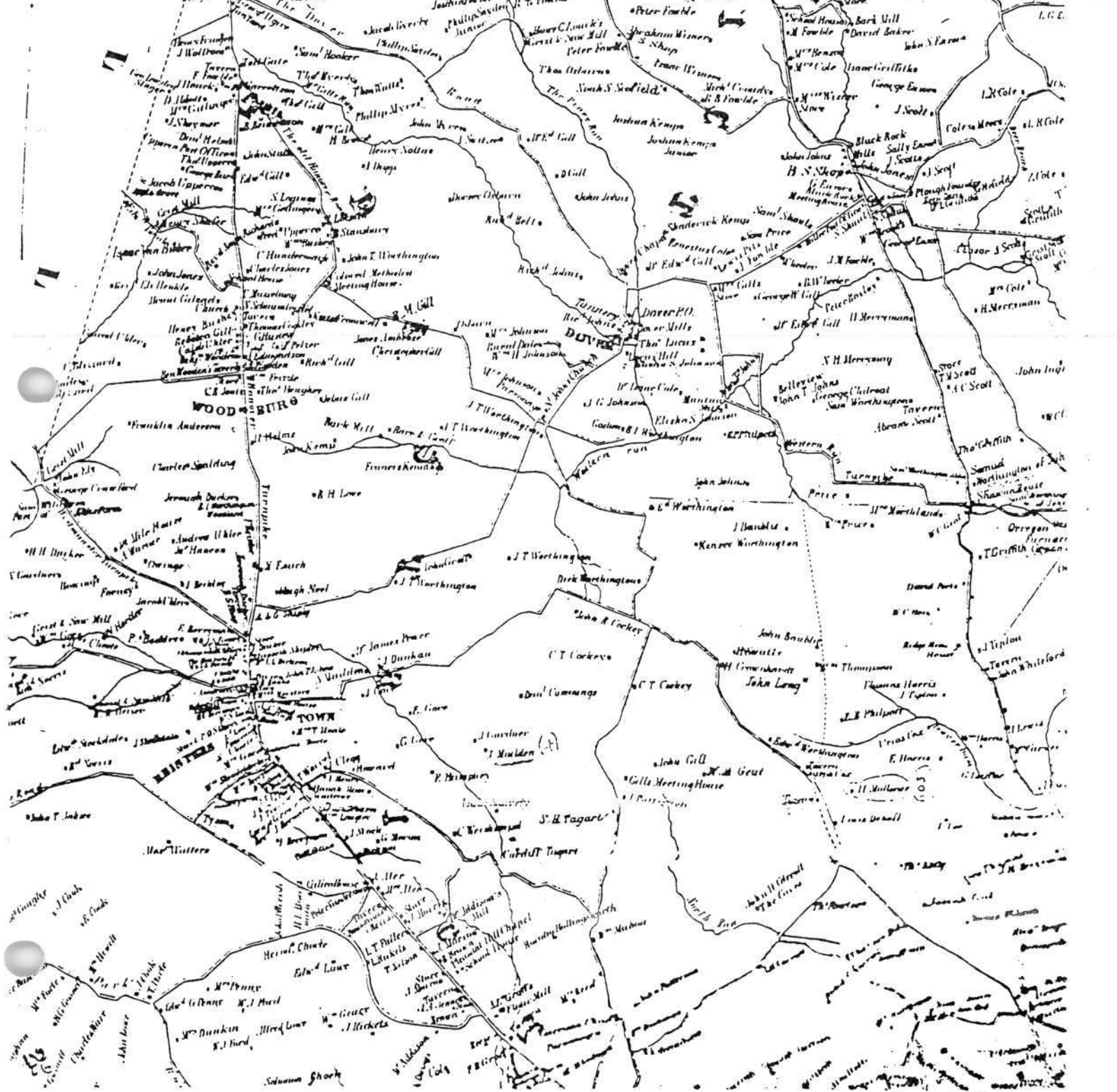
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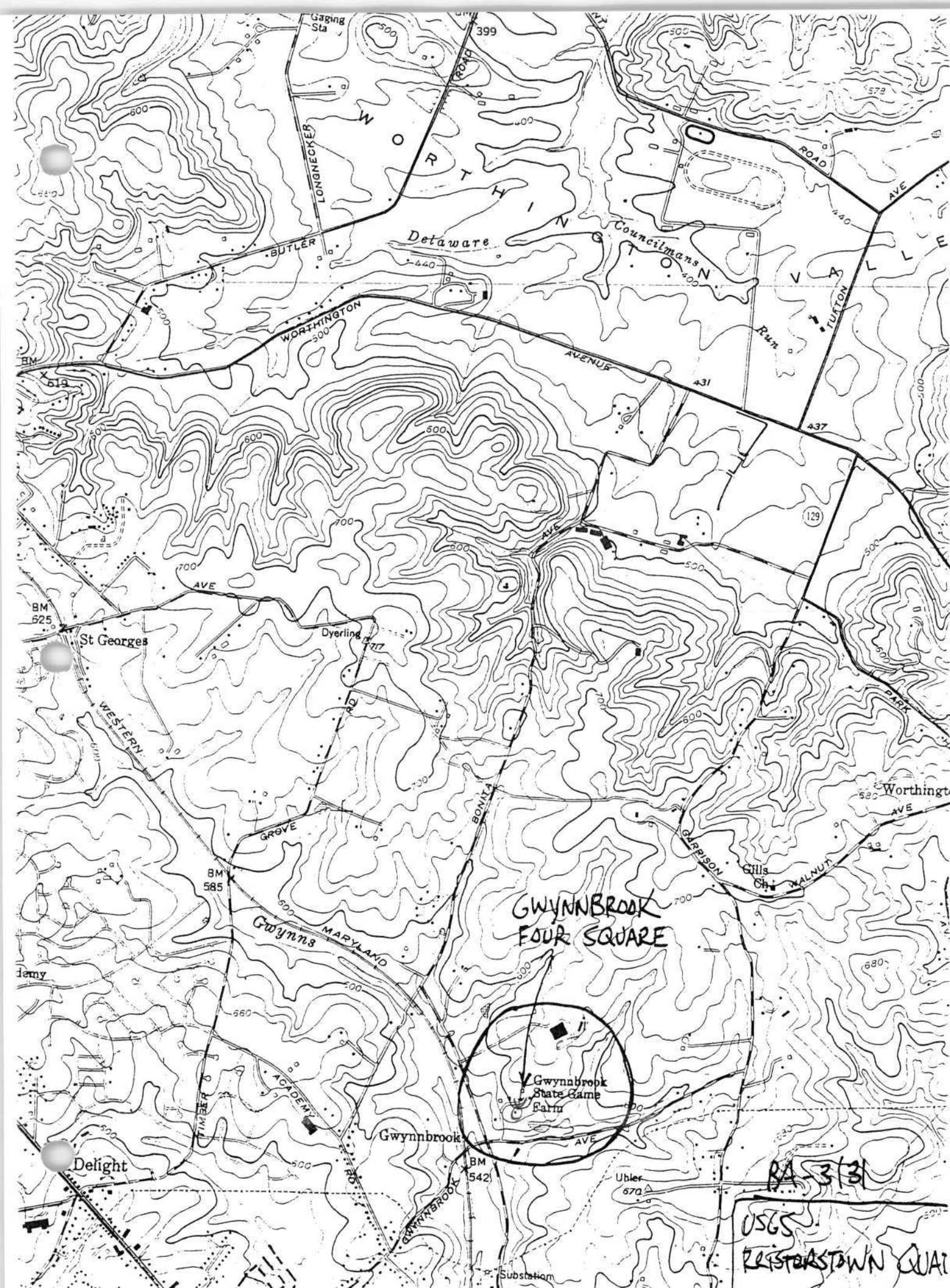
STATE OF MARYLAND
(DEPT. OF GAME & FORESTRY)
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10P 2

P/O P 346
20F 3

ROSEWOOD STATE

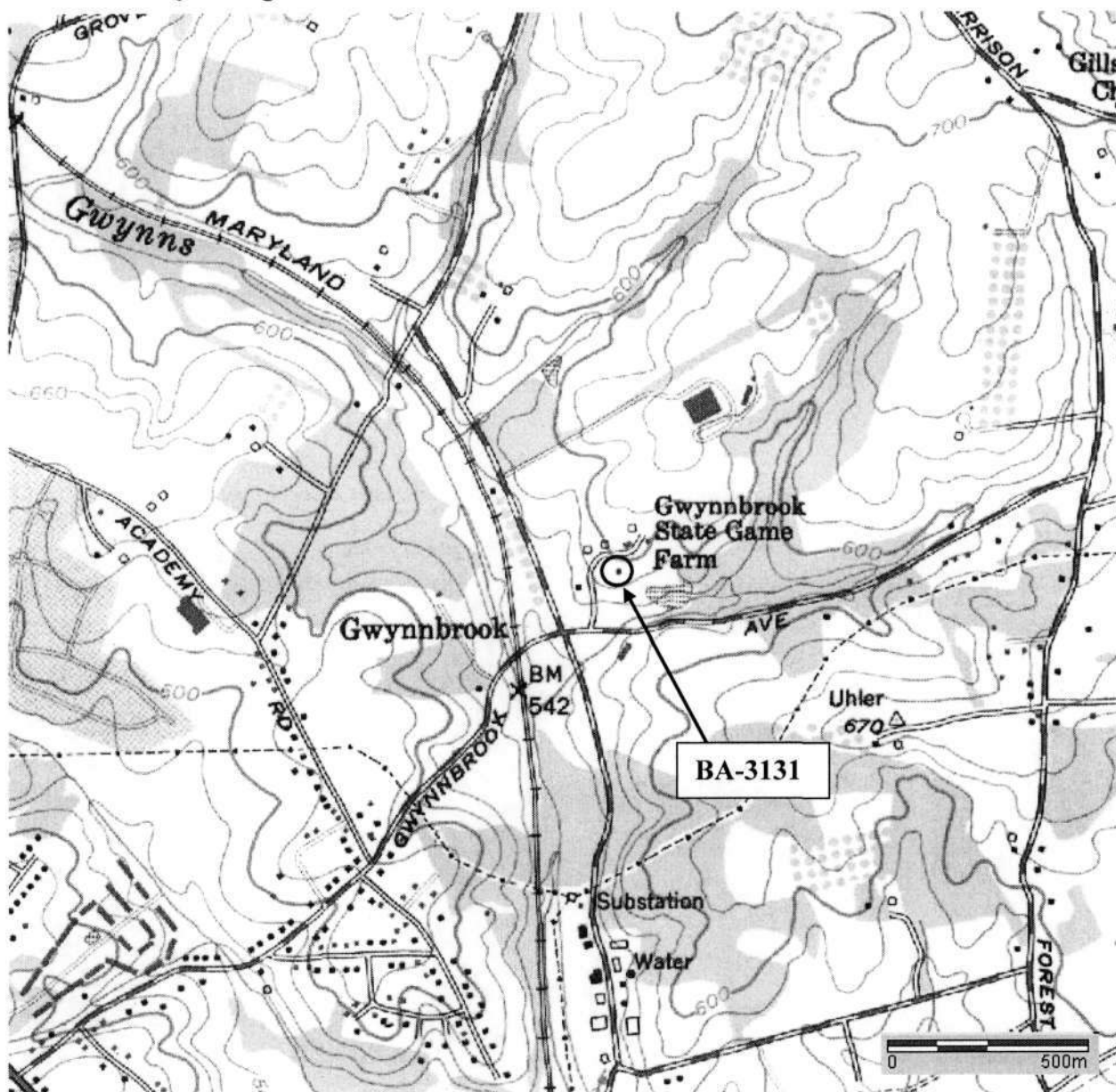






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Gwynnbrook Four Square, site
3738 Gwynnbrook Avenue, Owings Mills
Reisterstown Quadrangle



BA-3131

Gwynnbrook Four Square, site

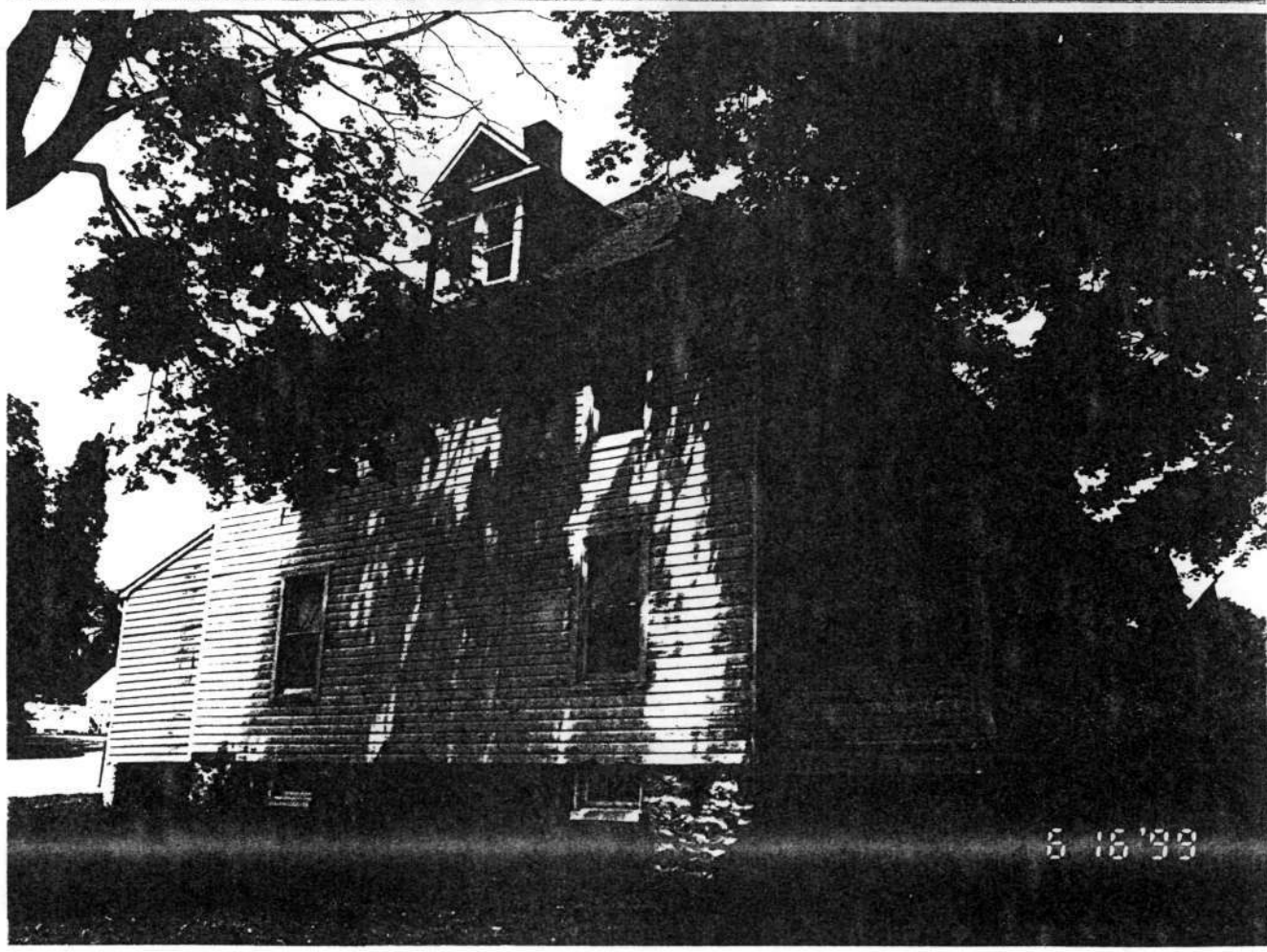
3738 Gwynnbrook Avenue, Owings Mills

2007 Google Earth image (House demolished and replaced by larger building)



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